

T O R R A N C E

Press Release
Police Department

Homicide at Restaurant **Inc# 070011973**

On Sunday, February 18, 2007, at approximately 5:15 PM, officers responded to a report of gunshots being fired at the Mongol King Restaurant located at 24012 Vista Montana, Torrance, CA 90505. They arrived and found one victim, later identified as 21-year old Erasmo Antonio Artero-Santos of Los Angeles, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Torrance Fire Department paramedics, who also responded, attended to Artero-Santos at the scene and had him transported to a local hospital; however, he succumbed to his injuries.

Torrance investigators responded to the scene and worked through the night to identify and capture the suspect, 20-year old Victor Hernandez of Harbor City. Investigators determined Hernandez walked into the restaurant and right up to Artero-Santos, a restaurant employee, and shot him several times at close range before fleeing. Hernandez entered a vehicle driven by a second suspect and the pair left southbound through the parking lot. Investigators believe Hernandez was jealous of Artero-Santos' possible relationship with Hernandez's long-time girlfriend, a 16-year old.

By 3:00 AM, investigators had confirmed Hernandez's identity and residence. A Torrance surveillance team and Torrance and Redondo Beach Police SWAT personnel were called in to assist and Hernandez was taken into custody without incident when he exited his residence slightly before 7:00 AM.

Investigators are working to identify and locate the second suspect who drove Hernandez to and away from the restaurant.

The investigation continues under the direction of the Captain Marc Wilkins, Special Operations Bureau Commander. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Jim Rudolph at (310) 618-5620.

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